IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A contents acquisition method comprising:

transmitting file request information that requests an acquisition/use file including a contents providing address corresponding to a request for acquiring contents data stored in an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address, separate from the contents providing address;

receiving the acquisition/use file corresponding to the file request information;

temporarily storing the acquisition/use file received;

determining [[if]] whether contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition/use file is registered in a database or not;

transmitting contents request information for requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents identification information to the external apparatus [[if]] when it is determined that the contents identification information is not registered in the database;

receiving the contents data transmitted from the external apparatus as a result of transmitting the contents request information to the external apparatus;

temporarily storing the contents identification information as in-storage contents identification information when it is determined that the contents identification information is registered in the database or when the reception of the contents data is completed;

transmitting attributes request information for requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information to the attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file when the temporary storage of the in-storage contents identification information is completed;

receiving the contents attributes information corresponding to the attributes request

information;

temporarily storing the contents attributes identification information corresponding to

the contents attributes information after the completion of the reception of the contents

attributes information;

registering the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database;

deleting the temporarily stored information after the completion of the registration of

the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database; and

controlling reproduction of the contents data based on reproduction criteria included

in the contents attributes information, wherein

the file request information includes contents data identification information, and

the acquisition/use file includes the attributes information providing address

correlated with the contents data identification information.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the contents attributes

information includes right of use information that makes the contents data usable.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the contents attributes

information includes right of use information that makes the contents data reproducible.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the contents attributes

information includes right of use information for increasing the number of times of copying

the contents data stored in the storage medium to other storage mediums.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

temporarily storing acquisition start information for starting acquisition of the

contents data before the transmitting of the file request information.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

determining [[if]] whether the acquisition start information is temporarily stored or

not when a communicable state is restored from a break of the communication connection

with the external apparatus;

determining [[if]] whether the in-storage contents identification information is

temporarily stored or not when it is determined that the acquisition start information is

temporarily stored; and

transmitting the attribute request information reacquiring the contents attributes

information for altering the attributes of the contents data that correspond to the in-storage

contents identification information to the attributes information providing address when it is

determined that the in-storage contents identification information is temporarily stored.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

deleting the acquisition/use file when the communicable state is restored from a break

of the communication connection with the external apparatus;

transmitting a file re-request information requesting the updated acquisition/use file;

receiving the updated acquisition/use file corresponding to the file re-request

information;

temporarily storing the received updated acquisition/use file; and

determining [[if]] whether the contents identification information corresponding to the

contents providing address in the updated acquisition/use file is temporarily stored or not,

wherein

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the transmitting contents request information is adapted to transmit the contents

request information requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents identification

information to the external apparatus when it is determined that the contents identification

information is not temporarily stored.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising:

determining [[if]] whether the contents attributes identification information

corresponding to the contents identification information is temporarily stored or not when it

is determined that the contents identification information is temporarily stored, wherein

the transmitting attributes request information is adapted to transmit the attributes

request information requesting the contents attributes information corresponding to the

contents attributes identification information to the attributes information providing address

included in the updated acquisition/use file when it is determined that the contents attributes

identification information is not temporarily stored.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

determining [[if]] whether the contents attributes information corresponding to the

contents attribute identification information and the contents data corresponding to the

contents attributes information are registered in the database or not when it is determined that

the contents attributes identification information is temporarily stored, wherein

the registering is adapted to register the contents data and the contents attributes

information when it is determined that the contents data and the contents attributes

information are not registered in the database.

10. (Currently Amended) An attributes information providing method ~~to be used in a situation where contents data are already registered in a database or the reception of the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition request file transmitted from an external apparatus is completed after externally and temporarily storing an acquisition/use file including a contents providing address corresponding to the acquisition request for contents data to an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address, separate from the contents providing address, and before requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address, the method~~ comprising:

receiving, at the attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file, attributes request information requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information transmitted in a condition where the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address is temporarily stored as in-storage contents identification information;

externally transmitting the contents attributes information of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information in response to the attributes request information having been received; and

controlling reproduction of the contents data based on reproduction criteria included in the contents attributes information, wherein

the acquisition request for contents data includes contents data identification information,

the acquisition/use file includes the attributes information providing address correlated with the contents data identification information, and

the method is performed when contents data are already registered in a database or the reception of the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address in the

acquisition request file transmitted from an external apparatus is completed after externally and temporarily storing an acquisition/use file including a contents providing address corresponding to the acquisition request for contents data to an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address, separate from the contents providing address, and before requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address, the method.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the contents attributes information includes right of use information that makes the contents data usable.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the contents attributes information includes the right of use information that makes the contents data reproducible.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the contents attributes information includes right of use information for increasing the number of times of copying the contents data stored in the storage medium to other storage mediums.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

receiving the attributes request information transmitted when the acquisition start information is temporarily stored and the in-storage contents identification information of the contents data is temporarily stored at the time when the communicable state is restored from a break of the communication connection although the acquisition start information indicating the start of acquisition of the contents data to the external apparatus is temporarily stored and the contents data and the contents attributes information corresponding to the contents data are registered in the database before temporarily storing the acquisition/use file

but subsequently the acquisition start information and the in-storage contents identification information that are temporarily stored are erased.

15. (Currently Amended) A contents acquisition apparatus comprising:

a file request information transmission section configured to transmit file request information that requests an acquisition/use file including a contents providing address corresponding to a request for acquiring contents data stored in an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address, separate from the contents providing address;

a file reception section configured to receive the acquisition/use file corresponding to the file request information transmitted by the file request information transmission section;

a temporary storage section configured to temporarily store the acquisition/use file received by the file reception section;

a determination section configured to determine [[if]] whether the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition/use file is registered in a database or not;

a contents request information transmission section configured to transmit contents request information for requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents identification information to the external apparatus [[if]] when it is determined by the determination section that the contents identification information is not registered in the database;

a data reception section configured to receive the contents data transmitted from the external apparatus as a result of transmitting the contents request information to the external apparatus by the contents request information transmission section;

a contents identification information temporary storage section configured to temporarily store the contents identification information as in-storage contents identification

information when it is determined by the determination section that the contents identification information is registered in the database or when the reception of the contents data is completed by the data reception section;

an attributes request information transmission section configured to transmit attributes request information for requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information to the attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file when the temporary storage of the in-storage contents identification information by the contents identification information temporary storage section is completed;

an attributes information reception section configured to receive the contents attributes information corresponding to the attributes request information transmitted by the attributes request information transmission section;

a contents attributes identification information temporary storage section configured to temporarily store the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the contents attributes information after the completion of the reception of the contents attributes information by the attributes information reception section;

a registration section configured to register the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database;

a temporarily stored information deletion section configured to delete the temporarily stored information after the completion of the registration of the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database; and

a control section configured to control the reproduction of the contents data based on reproduction criteria included in the contents attributes information, wherein

the file request information includes contents data identification information, and

the acquisition/use file includes the attributes information providing address correlated with the contents data identification information.

16. (Currently Amended) An attributes information providing apparatus ~~to be used in a situation where contents data are already registered in a database or the reception of the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition request file transmitted from an external apparatus is completed after externally and temporarily storing an acquisition/use file including the contents providing address corresponding to the acquisition request for contents data to an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address, separate from the contents providing address, and before requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address, the apparatus~~ comprising:

an attributes request information reception section configured to receive, at the attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file, attributes request information requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information transmitted in a condition where the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address is temporarily stored as in-storage contents identification information;

an attributes information transmission section configured to externally transmit the contents attributes information of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information in response to the attributes request information received by the attributes request information reception section; and

a control section configured to control the reproduction of the contents data based on reproduction criteria included in the contents attributes information, wherein

the acquisition request for contents data includes contents data identification information,

the acquisition/use file includes the attributes information providing address correlated with the contents data identification information, and

contents data are already registered in a database or the reception of the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition request file transmitted from an external apparatus is completed after externally and temporarily storing an acquisition/use file including the contents providing address corresponding to the acquisition request for contents data to an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address, separate from the contents providing address, and before requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing ~~encoded with~~ a contents acquisition program for causing an information processing apparatus to execute the steps comprising:

transmitting file request information that requests an acquisition/use file including a contents providing address corresponding to a request for acquiring contents data stored in an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address, separate from the contents providing address;

receiving the acquisition/use file corresponding to the file request information;

temporarily storing the acquisition/use file received;

determining [[if]] whether the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition/use file is registered in a database ~~or not~~;

transmitting contents request information for requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents identification information to the external apparatus [[if]] when it is determined that the contents identification information is not registered in the database;

receiving the contents data transmitted from the external apparatus as a result of transmitting the contents request information to the external apparatus;

temporarily storing the contents identification information as in-storage contents identification information when it is determined that the contents identification information is registered in the database or when the reception of the contents data is completed;

transmitting attributes request information for requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information to the attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file when the temporary storage of the in-storage contents identification information is completed;

receiving the contents attributes information corresponding to the attributes request information;

temporarily storing the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the contents attributes information after the completion of the reception of the contents attributes information;

registering the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database;

deleting the temporarily stored information after the completion of the registration of the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database; and

controlling reproduction of the contents data based on reproduction criteria included in the contents attributes information, wherein

the file request information includes contents data identification information, and

the acquisition/use file includes the attributes information providing address correlated with the contents data identification information.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing ~~encoded with~~ an attributes information providing program to be executed by an information processing apparatus, which when executed by the information processing apparatus, causes the information processing apparatus to perform steps ~~in a situation where contents data are already registered in a database or the reception of the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition request file transmitted from an external apparatus is completed before externally and temporarily storing an acquisition/use file including the contents providing address corresponding to the acquisition request for contents data to an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address, separate from the contents providing address, and after requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address, the program~~ comprising:

receiving, at the attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file, attributes request information requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information transmitted in a condition where the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address is temporarily stored as in-storage contents identification information; and

externally transmitting the contents attributes information of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information in response to the attributes request information having been received; and

controlling reproduction of the contents data based on reproduction criteria included in the contents attributes information, wherein

the acquisition request for contents data includes contents data identification information,

the acquisition/use file includes the attributes information providing address correlated with the contents data identification information, and

the information processing apparatus executes the program when contents data are already registered in a database or the reception of the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition request file transmitted from an external apparatus is completed before externally and temporarily storing an acquisition/use file including the contents providing address corresponding to the acquisition request for contents data to an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address, separate from the contents providing address, and after requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address.

19. (Currently Amended) A contents acquisition method comprising:

transmitting file request information that requests an acquisition/use file including a contents providing address corresponding to a request for acquiring contents data stored in an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address, separate from the contents providing address;

receiving the acquisition/use file corresponding to the file request information;

temporarily storing the acquisition/use file received;

determining [[if]] whether contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition/use file is registered in a database or not;

transmitting contents request information for requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents identification information to the external apparatus [[if]] when it is determined that the contents identification information is not registered in the database;

receiving the contents data transmitted from the external apparatus as a result of transmitting the contents request information to the external apparatus;

temporarily storing the contents identification information as in-storage contents identification information when it is determined that the contents identification information is registered in the database and temporarily storing the contents identification information as in-storage contents identification information when the reception of the contents data is completed;

transmitting attributes request information for requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information to the attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file when the temporarily storing of the in-storage contents identification information is completed;

receiving the contents attributes information corresponding to the attributes request information;

temporarily storing the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the contents attributes information after the completion of the reception of the contents attributes information in the receiving the contents attributes information;

registering the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database; and

deleting the temporarily stored information after the registration of the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database.

20. (Previously Presented)   The contents acquisition method according to Claim 1, wherein the controlling reproduction of the contents data comprises:

restricting reproduction of the contents data to a number of times a user is authorized to reproduce the contents data.

21. (Previously Presented) The attributes information providing method according to Claim 10, wherein the controlling reproduction of the contents data comprises:

restricting reproduction of the contents data to a number of times a user is authorized to reproduce the contents data.

22. (Previously Presented) The contents acquisition apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the control section is configured to restrict the reproduction of the contents data to a number of times that a user is authorized to reproduce the contents data.

23. (Previously Presented) The attributes information providing apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the control section is configured to restrict the reproduction of the contents data to a number of times that a user is authorized to reproduce the contents data.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 17, wherein the controlling reproduction of the contents data comprises:

restricting reproduction of the contents data to a number of times a user is authorized to reproduce the contents data.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 18, wherein the controlling reproduction of the contents data comprises:

restricting reproduction of the contents data to a number of times a user is authorized to reproduce the contents data.

26-31 (Canceled).